

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2415

UNCLAS LONDON 09943

PASS TO SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION FOR ROBERT CITRON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, UK

SUBJECT: RED TIDE NORTHEAST UK

REF: SMITHSONIAN OB 232315Z

1. EXTENSIVE INQUIRIES HAVE REVEALED INVOLVEMENT OF SEVERAL LABORATORIES IN STUDIES OF RED TIDE OFF NE COAST OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND. DR. HOOKWAY AND PORT ERIN MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES NOT NOW INVOLVED THIS PHENOMENON.

2. PRESENTLY INTERESTED LABORATORIES INCLUDE DOVE MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY (UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE ON TYNE), WHITLEY BAY, NORTHUMBERLAND, PLUS TWO LABORATORIES OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD, AT LOWESTOFT AND BURNHAM ON CROUCH.

3. MAIN WORK IS BEING CARRIED ON AT MAFF FISHERIES RESEARCH LABORATORIES, BURNHAM ON CROUCH (TELEPHONE 0621-782658). RESPONSIBLE OFFICER, PETER AYRES, REPORTS THAT THEY HAVE STUDIED EFFECTS OF RED TIDE SINCE 1968. 78 CASES OF HUMAN POISONING DUE TO EATING SHELLFISH DURING SEVEN YEAR PERIOD. LABORATORY REGULARLY MONITORS MUSSELS COLLECTED ALONG 200 KILOMETER LENGTH OF COAST FROM BERWICK TO BRIDLINGTON. TOXIN ANALYSIS PERFORMED, TOXICITY LEVEL VARIES FROM YEAR TO YEAR. TYPICLA LEVEL 6,500 MOUSE UNITS. IDENTIFIED AS GONYAULAX SPECIES.

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4. EXTENSIVE EVIDENCE OF EFFECTS OF PHENOMENON ON WILD

LIFE IN NE AREA. BIRDS AFFECTED INCLUDE SHAGS AND MANY SPECIES OF GULL. POPULATION OF ABOUT 350 SHAGS ON FARNE ISLAND TOTALLY DESTROYED. VERY LARGE LOSSES IN GULL POPULATION, FIRTH OF FORTH.

5. AYRES IS SENDING DETAILED MAFF REPORTS ON THIS TOPIC TO SCIATT LONDON AND THESE WILL BE AIRMAILED TO CITRON IN A FEW DAYS.

RICHARDSON

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